

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (original) An injection molding nozzle (10) for use in an injection mold, comprising a nozzle casing (20) containing at least one runner (30) for an injection material to be processed and issuing at or in a nozzle orifice element (40) and being connected to allow injection material flow, by means of an insert (50) configured end-wise at or in the nozzle orifice element (40), to a mold cavity constituted by at least one set of inserts (12, 13).

characterized in that
the nozzle orifice element (40) configured in the nozzle casing (20) and/or the insert (50) configured in the nozzle orifice element (40) are longitudinally displaceable and in that during operation of the molding injection nozzle (10) and in that they are clamped between the nozzle casing (20) and the mold insert (12, 13) during operation of the injection molding nozzle (13).

2. (original) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the insert (50) may be plugged into the nozzle orifice element (40) by means of a neck segment (53).

3. (currently amended) Molding injection nozzle as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that the insert (50) is fitted with a flange (52) which rests axially against the mold insert (12) and/or against the nozzle orifice element (40).

4. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the insert (50) enters the mold insert (12) by means of an end element (56).

5. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the end element (56) is fitted with, or constitutes, a gate aperture (18).

6. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the end element (56) constitutes, respectively bounds, a portion of the mold cavity.

7. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 4 through 6~~ claim 4, characterized in that the end element (56) matches at least segment-wise the mold inserts (12).

8. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that the insert (50) constitutes a centering element centering the injection molding nozzle (10).

9. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that an airgap (87) is subtended between the insert (50) and the mold inserts (12).

10. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that the material of the nozzle orifice element (40) is thermally highly conducting.

11. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 10~~ claim 1, characterized in that the material of the insert (50) is thermally highly conducting or thermally poorly conducting.

12. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 10~~ claim 1, characterized in that the nozzle orifice element (40) and the insert (50) are integral and made of the same material.

13. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 12~~ claim 1, characterized in that the insert (50) is made of a wear-resistant material.

14. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 13~~ claim 1, characterized in that the nozzle orifice element (40) and/or the insert (50) constitute(s) an open gate (90).

15. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 14~~ claim 1, characterized in that the nozzle orifice element (40) and/or the insert (50) comprise(s) a conical nozzle tip (94) projecting as far as a parting plane (16) or beyond it.

16. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~either of claims 13 and 14~~ claim 13, characterized in that a support bush (70) is configured between the insert (50) and the mold inserts (12).

17. (original) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the support bush (70) is longitudinally displaceable and clamps the injection molding nozzle (10) during operation between the insert (50) and the mold inserts (12).

18. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~either of claims 16 and 17~~ claim 16, characterized in that the support bush (70) bounds an airgap (92).

19. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 16 through 18~~ claim 16, characterized in that the support bush (70) subtends the gate aperture (18).

20. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 16 through 19~~ claim 16, characterized in that the support bush (70) constitutes respectively bounds a portion of the mold cavity.

21. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 20~~ claim 1, characterized in that the injection molding nozzle (10) is a needle shutoff nozzle, comprising a shutoff needle (60) passing through the runner (30) and through the nozzle orifice element (40) in longitudinally displaceable

manner and being displaceable from an open into a closed position, the shutoff needle (60) being fitted with, or constituting at its lower end, a sealing element (65) which, in the closed position, enters a sealing seat (D).

22. (original) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in claim 21, characterized in that the sealing seat (D) for the sealing element (65) of the shutoff needle (60) is configured in the end element (56) of the insert (50).

23. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in either ~~for claim 21 and 22~~ claim 21, characterized in that the insert (50) constitutes a needle guide for the shutoff needle (20), the shutoff needle (60) being guided in a manner in the insert (50) that the sealing element (65) shall touch the sealing seat (D) only shortly before reaching the closed position of the shutoff needle (60).

24. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one of claims 21 through 23~~ claim 21, characterized in that the insert (50) centering the shutoff needle (60) comprises at least one intake cone (54, 57) in front of the sealing seat (D), a first intake cone (54) being configured in the neck segment (53) of the insert (50) and a second cone (57) in the end element (56).

25. (currently amended) Injection molding as claimed in ~~one of claims 21 through 24~~ claim 21, characterized the shutoff needle (60) tapers toward the sealing element (65), the transition (63) from a large diameter needle segment (62) to a smaller diameter sealing element (65) being conical and/or rounded.

26. (currently amended) Injection molding as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims 21 through 25~~ claim 21, characterized in that the shutoff needle (60)
comprises lateral bulges, flattenings, recesses (68) or the like.

27. (currently amended) Injection molding nozzle as claimed in ~~one~~
~~of claims 1 through 26~~ claim 1, characterized the injection molding nozzle (10) is a
hot runner nozzle or a cold runner nozzle.